



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM: Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: November 2, 2005

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of resolution establishing a comprehensive public safety training program for MRCA Park Rangers.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution establishing a comprehensive public safety training program for MRCA Park Rangers.

Background: The MRCA has adopted the Park Ranger of California (PRAC) training standards for the position of Park Ranger. These minimum standards provide an excellent educational foundation. Currently MRCA Rangers are in the certification or waiver process. Due to the wide variety of roles assumed by MRCA Park Rangers, ongoing and advanced training is necessary. While it is clear that additional training is required, it is a harsh reality that the MRCA cannot afford to pay 100% of tuition or payroll costs to meet this objective. As such, many of the proposed training categories require a time or cost contribution by the employee requesting development or continuing education training. Additionally, this program can be cancelled at any time due to budget considerations, will not be considered part of an employees compensation package, and will not become effective if adopted until January 1, 2006. The Chief Ranger or designee will approve all proposed training programs.

FIRE

The MRCA will continue to provide those classes as required for field and management positions as required by the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS). These classes are generally offered at no cost to the agency through the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

SWIFT WATER

The MRCA will continue to provide all Park Rangers with flood and water orientation training. In addition, the MRCA will train a cadre of volunteers at the

Swift water Rescue Technician 1 level. The MRCA manages parkland in which swift moving water poses a potential hazard to park visitors. These classes will be offered at low cost by the Ventura County Sheriff's Department.

If this training standard is adopted, the MRCA would be able to field a Office of Emergency Services Type 4 Swift water rescue team, given modest equipment purchases as allowed for within an approved budget.

Emergency Medical Training (EMT)

As the MRCA becomes more reliant during emergency operations on our own resources, the need for in-house emergency care providers has become apparent. This level of training would be voluntary.

EMT initial training - 40 hours paid (120 hour program), \$250 out of pocket costs

EMT B/P re-certification - Actual re-certification costs.

The MRCA is developing the capacity to teach and certify this program in-house.

Conference and Schools:

The following schedule is proposed for staff development and continuing education:

PRAC conference - once every two years (registration, food and lodging)

Job related one week training session - once every 18 months (\$750 maximum cost)

Job related categories would include:

Interpretation

Law Enforcement

Maintenance/facilities management

Fire

EMS/Rescue

This yearly school/training concept has been adopted by other public safety agencies. The cost of training may be high, but not as high as the costs of failing to train.